

## REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT New Mail Censoring Procedures

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1. On 10 September 1971, a special method of handling ~~official~~ official mail was introduced. This was a precaution which was intended to counteract industrial sabotage caused by instructions illegally sent by mail to various factories. Use of this official mail channel is now compulsory for all VEB's; it is handled on a basis similar to ~~the~~ post (registered mail). This new method of handling official mail is as follows:
- a. A special issue of stamps which ~~is used for~~ is used for purpose only and which must be strictly accounted for. Usually, the VEB's submit monthly requirement for duty stamps to the ~~post office~~ post office.
- b. All ~~mail~~ mail is placed in mail boxes (one for registered, one for 25X1 ordinary) at the VEB.
- c. Envelopes used by VEB's are now either stamped or printed. Such envelopes are not to be used in correspondence going to Western Germany or to West Berlin.
- Dienstpost is not censored, thereby cutting down personnel time and allowing more such time for increasing censorship of private mail.

2. Censorship is handled in two ways:
- a. General censorship is done by special postal sections which are established at Dresden A7, Erfurt, Leipzig N18, Chemnitz and Berlin NW 4 (for parcels) and Berlin NW 8 (for letters). Berlin mail is censored either at Dresden or at the above named postal sections in Berlin. Berlin mail also includes mail from the so-called Sperrquertel (closed zone), which extends around Berlin as far out as the third or fourth railway stop. All mail to and from this area has to pass through Berlin. As a rule, all parcels addressed to Berlin (East Berlin included) and to places outside East Germany are opened. To which extent the letters are censored was not known with any accuracy. However, letters traveling inside East Germany are not subject to general censorship. Czechoslovakian and Balkan mail is censored in Dresden; Polish and Soviet mail in Berlin. Parcels from East Germany to West Germany or to West Berlin may be sent without presentation of an Ausweis. There is no need to make a declaration of the contents, but it must be stated that the parcel in question is being sent as a gift. There are certain

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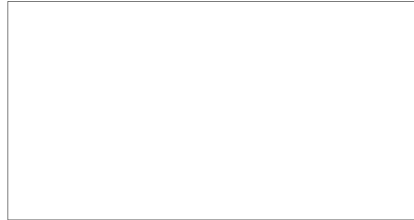
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number is then noted on the parcel form.

b. Special censorship is handled as follows: When the SSD for any reason wants someone's mail, and SSD agent comes directly to the postmaster of the [redacted] in question (who as a rule is a reliable SSD member) and requests [redacted] concerned be put aside. The mail is usually kept by the postmaster until the SSD man comes to collect it. He takes the mail away to be censored; such mail might be only partly returned for further delivery.



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